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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 83% Light Rain & Showers Sensex 80,710 | Nifty 24,741 | Gold 1,07,674 | Silver 1,24,873 | Dollar 88.13 | Euro 103.59 | GBP 119.29

COST OF LIVING

No respite for tenants as rents in 5 localities of city have soared by 10-12% in first half of year

PAGE 2

LOSE CONTROL

Transition to Greater Bengaluru Authority has brought animal birth control programme to abrupt halt

PAGE 5

Children kidnapped are often drugged or made to look malnourished to elicit sympathy while begging. Older children are pushed into forced labour, while infants are rented out to begging rings

CHILDHOOD ON SALE

Of 13,552 kidnapping cases since 2020, nearly 72% victims are girls

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In the dead of night on Sunday, a seven-month-old baby boy was snatched from his sleeping mother's side on the footpath near Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College, Shivajinagar. The child's mother, 24-year-old hailing from Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, had come with her husband and infant son to sell wigs, balloons, and dolls at the St. Basilica Church fair. Exhausted after a long day, the family lay down to rest at around 3.30 am, unaware of the horror about to unfold.

Kamatchi recalls feeding her son, Naveen Kumar, minutes before she noticed unusual movements around her. When she woke up, she saw a gang of men lifting her baby.

She rushed to stop them, screaming for help, but the men shoved her and her husband to the ground and escaped in an autorickshaw with the infant.

A complaint was filed at the Commercial Street Police Station, and a case of kidnapping under IPC Section 363 (kidnapping from lawful guardianship) was registered. Police are now scanning CCTV footage from surrounding areas to track the abductors.

"These abductions reflect a disturbing trend of children being reduced to tools for easy money, with footpaths, hospitals, and fairs emerging as hotspots as migrant families with infants often sleep unprotected in such areas

—Police official

Targeted on footpaths

This is not an isolated case. In May this year, another chillingly similar incident shook Bengaluru. A one-year-four-month-old boy, Rohith, was abducted while sleeping beside his father, Mukesh, a balloon seller from Rajasthan, outside Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital. Mukesh discovered his child missing at 2 am and frantically searched before approaching the police.

Swift investigation and technical tracking led police to a woman beggar in Mysuru, who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

Electric dreams come true

With 49,586 new electric vehicles registered across various RTOs, Bengaluru seems to have embraced green rides

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Bengaluru has recorded a remarkable increase in the number of new Electric Vehicles (EVs) in 2025 so far (between January and 4 September) compared with the previous year.

According to the data available on Vahan dashboard, the official portal of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), as many as 49,586 new EVs have been registered across RTOs. Between January and August last year, only 8,800 new EVs were enlisted.

The highest number of EVs (9,985) has been registered in Bengaluru South RTO, followed by 6,108 in Bengaluru East and 5,879 EVs in Bengaluru Central.

A little over 98,000 new EVs were registered in Karnataka in 2025 so far.

Experts say the surge in registration of new EVs may be due to more product options in different vehicle categories available for buyers, especially within the two-wheeler segment, mostly delivery vehicles.

While this surge in adoption will surely lead to a reduction in tailpipe emissions in the city, the need of the hour is to push for more electric buses.

"Although pollution due to tailpipe emissions might get reduced due to the adoption of two-wheeler EVs, it is not the most ideal scenario. The number of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Beat drop

Ana Lilia, Regal, and Vladimir Dubyshkin are presenting a night of relentless techno and raw energy, bringing Berlin's iconic HÖR to Bengaluru. **Where: Koramangala Social; When: September 6, 7 pm**

02 Tune in

Dark Light, one of the city's most dynamic music bands, will be performing a tribute to Linkin Park, celebrating the band's iconic music that has defined a generation. **Where: Indian Craft Brewery, Nagawara; When: September 13, 8 pm**

03 Shopping spree

Namu Recommends Vegan Market is back with its 15th edition, collaborating with over 130 brands showcasing cruelty-free beauty, sustainable fashion, plant-based food, and a lot more. The market is pet-friendly, and offers food stalls, desserts, and specialty drinks. **Where: Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal; When: September 6 to 7, 12 pm to 8 pm**

04 Imagination unleashed

As a playful celebration for Onam, Openhouse is organising a festive playdate, where tradition meets imagination, and little ones take centre stage. **Where: Openhouse at Indiranagar, Sarjapur, Whitefield, HRBR Layout, Sadashivanagar, Sahakar Nagar, JP Nagar, HSR and Haralur; When: September 6 (For ages 1-3) and September 7 (For ages 3-5), 9.30 am to 11 am and 11.30 am to 1 pm**

05 Musical diversity

The Indian Music Experience Museum presents 'Azaadi Music Festival', celebrating India's music diversity, from folk, tribal, ghazal to classical music. The highlight performances include Padmashri Kaluram Bamaniya, Akkarai Sisters, Arivu, Indian Ocean, Divyam Sodhi and Khwaab, and folk dance showcases. **Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar; When: August 29 to September 7, 12 pm onwards**

Tenants feel the heat as rents spike by 10-12%

Property portal report shows five Bengaluru localities face rising rents, pushing tenants to stretch budgets, reduce space, or relocate to less connected areas amid mounting rental pressure

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Despite overall market stabilisation, tenants in KR Puram, Bellandur, Electronic City, BTM Layout, and Ramamurthy Nagar are facing 10 to 12 per cent rental hikes in H1 2025, tightening monthly budgets.

Bengaluru tenants may have hoped for relief in 2025, but for many living in key micro-markets, that relief hasn't arrived. At least five areas in the city—KR Puram, Bellandur, Electronic City, BTM Layout, and Ramamurthy Nagar—have recorded double-digit rent hikes in the first half of the year, defying the broader cooling trend seen across India's top metros. For families, working professionals, and students, this continued surge is beginning to pinch, as rentals form an increasingly large portion of household expenses, according to the NoBroker Rent Report 2025.

Rents rise despite market stabilisation

The report stated that city-wide rental inflation may have moderated to around 8 per cent, thanks to fresh housing supply and post-pandemic stabilisation. However, tenants in select pockets are still dealing with rental spikes between 10 per cent and 12 per cent, making affordability a growing concern.

This sharp increase comes on the heels of three years of steep hikes between 2021 and 2024, where annual growth averaged 12 to 24 per cent. The overall moderation hasn't translated into relief for renters in Bengaluru, a city that continues to top tenant demand charts with a 50 per cent preference rate among metro renters, far ahead of Mumbai (30 per cent) and Chennai (35 per cent).

Bengaluru continues to top tenant demand charts with high preference rate among metro renters

Where tenants are feeling the pinch

The report stated that KR Puram, Bellandur, BTM Layout, Electronic City, and Ramamurthy Nagar have emerged as Bengaluru's rental pressure points in H1 2025, with rents rising by 10 to 12 per cent—forcing many tenants to stretch budgets, compromise on space, or shift to less connected localities. In KR Puram, metro expansion has improved access but also driven up costs, squeezing mid-income families. Bellandur's proximity to tech parks and its central location continues to fuel rent hikes, leaving few affordable options. BTM Layout, once a go-to for students and young professionals, is now pricing out flat-sharers. Electronic City remains somewhat budget-friendly but is seeing steady increases due to metro connectivity and tech demand, while Ramamurthy Nagar's improved infrastructure and housing stock are pushing out lower-income renters.

Gated communities dominate tenant choices

As preferences shift towards larger 3BHK units, families are seeking more room for hybrid work and lifestyle needs. Yet, the cost of these upgrades is steep. Additionally, 88 per cent of tenants in Bengaluru now prefer gated communities, where the benefits of security, amenities, and community life come at a premium. In comparison, similar preferences are seen in Pune (85 per cent) and Hyderabad (82 per cent), but Bengaluru leads the trend—often making budget-friendly living within gated societies a tough find.

Digital shift no shield from costs

While 83 per cent of renters now search online, hoping for better deals, the digital shift hasn't significantly softened the blow. Transparent listings and cost comparisons might help tenants avoid broker charges, but in high-demand areas, the prices remain firmly elevated.

Tenants bear the brunt of rising demand

In Whitefield, current average 2BHK rents range between Rs 25,000 and Rs 40,000. In Bellandur and Sarjapur, they touched Rs 45,000, while in KR Puram, they climbed to Rs 30,000. Rents in Devanahalli, although lower at Rs 12,000 to Rs 17,000, are expected to rise 12 to 20 per cent in the next year, thanks to industrial expansion and tech campuses. "For renters, especially students, young professionals, and middle-class families, Bengaluru's housing market remains a tight squeeze, even as inflation cools on paper. While the city grows, so does the cost of calling it home," said a student.

IIDEA stages protest against TCS layoffs

The IT & ITES Democratic Employees Association (IIDEA) on Friday staged a demonstration outside Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) Whitefield campus, opposing what it described as large-scale layoffs and exploitative workplace policies.

According to IIDEA, TCS has laid off 12,261 employees, with mid- and senior-level professionals being the most affected. The association also criticised the company's new deployment policy, which mandates employees to log 225 billable days in a year, calling it "unrealistic and exploitative."

Protesters further highlighted issues in TCS's recruitment process, pointing out that over 500 professionals who were issued offer letters with joining dates in July 2025 are still waiting to be onboarded. Many of them had resigned from earlier jobs and are now facing financial and career uncertainty.

IIDEA argued that the rise of automation and artificial intelligence should be used to

reduce workloads and improve work-life balance, rather than displace employees. The group urged TCS to focus on reskilling and job security during technological transitions instead of resorting to mass terminations.

The association put forward a set of demands, including an immediate stop to layoffs, fair severance and healthcare benefits for affected staff, greater transparency in layoff criteria, and worker consultation before any restructuring. It also called for automation to be implemented responsibly, ensuring that it eases workloads rather than eliminating jobs. TCS has not yet issued a statement responding to the protest. **— BMB**

₹723-crore plan for two new sewage treatment plants

The state government has approved the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) proposal to build two 100 MLD sewage treatment plants (STPs) at Doddanekundi and Mailasandra at a revised cost of Rs 722.72 crore, including seven years of operations and maintenance. Currently, five STPs with a combined capacity of 345 MLD are operational in the Vrishabhavathi Valley, while another five units with a 210 MLD capacity are under construction in compliance with National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives. With the Cauvery Stage-V project implemented last year, sewage generated across 110 villages must now be treated before being released into lakes. Estimates suggest the Vrishabhavathi Valley alone will produce 704 MLD of sewage by 2029, prompting the need for additional capacity. Of the sanctioned cost, Rs 629.81 crore will go toward construction, funded through a mix of government grants, BWSSB resources, and loans, while Rs 92.91 crore will be met from BWSSB's own funds for operations. **— BMB**

Catch total lunar eclipse on Sept 7-8

Bengaluru will witness a spectacular total lunar eclipse on the night of September 7–8, 2025, visible across the city and all over India without the need for any special equipment. The eclipse begins with the penumbral phase at 8.58 pm, followed by the partial eclipse at 9.57 pm. The total eclipse starts at 11 pm, reaching its peak at 11.41 pm, before ending at 12.22 am on September 8. The partial eclipse concludes at 1.26 am and the penumbral phase ends at 2.25 am. Meanwhile, Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru will organise special demonstration lectures on the evening of September 7 to explain the phenomenon. Any public viewing activity at the planetarium will depend on sky conditions during the monsoon. **— BMB**

Two arrested for looting car and mobile phones worth Rs 8 lakh

The Viveka Nagar police have arrested two persons in connection with a robbery case involving the theft of a car and three mobile phones worth Rs 8 lakh.

According to police, the incident occurred in the early hours of August 27, when the complainant, a cab driver from Kamakshamma Layout, Yelahanka Old Town, was en route from Ejipura Signal to Domlur Ring Road to pick up a passenger. Around 2.30 am, two unidentified men on a two-wheeler intercepted his vehicle, assaulted him, and made away with his car and mobile phones. A complaint was registered the same day at Viveka Nagar Police Station.

Acting swiftly, the police tracked down the suspects through multiple leads and informant networks. On August 28, two residents of TC Palya, KR Puram, were taken into custody. During interrogation, they confessed to the crime. The stolen car and mobile phones were recovered from their possession.

Police confirmed the total value of the seized property at Rs 8 lakh. The accused were produced before court on August 29 and have been remanded to judicial custody. Investigations are ongoing to determine if they were involved in other similar offences. —BMB

Duo arrested for robbing B'luru jewellery store using toy gun

The Madanayakanahalli police have arrested two men for their involvement in a daring jewellery shop robbery carried out with nothing more than a plastic gun. Two other members of the gang remain absconding.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammed Rafiq, the alleged kingpin, and Noushad. According to police, Rafiq is a habitual offender linked to more than 16 cases of theft and a murder. The incident took place on July 24, when the gang targeted a jewellery store on Magadi Road in Machohalli. Using the toy gun to intimidate shopkeepers, they looted gold jewellery and fled the scene, leaving the staff shaken but unharmed.

After a month-long investigation, police nabbed two of the accused, recovering 90 grams of gold, 2.5 lakh worth of copper wires, Rs 10 lakh in cash, and two vehicles. Officials revealed that the gang carefully avoided using mobile phones to evade detection, making the operation difficult to trace.

Investigations revealed that the group had been operating for several months, striking at multiple locations using similar tactics. —BMB

Two arrested with 1.4 kg of ganja in Devanahalli

The Devanahalli Police on Thursday arrested two individuals for allegedly selling the banned drug marijuana and seized 1.4 kg of ganja worth Rs 55,000 from their possession.

According to police, on August 28, 2025, officers received specific information from an informant that two persons were illegally selling cannabis on a two-wheeler near Rani Cross, MR Layout, within Devanahalli Police Station limits. Acting swiftly, the police team raided the spot and apprehended the accused.

During the operation, police seized 1.4 kg of ganja, Rs 1,200 in cash, a weighing machine, and a two-wheeler, all collectively valued at Rs 55,000. A case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at Devanahalli Police Station. The accused were produced before court on August 29, 2025, where they were remanded to judicial custody. Officials stated that further investigation is underway.

—BMB

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7 cases on CM's car; fine paid after video goes viral

A video circulating on social media has revealed that the Chief Minister's official car had seven traffic violation cases registered against it, sparking public debate over accountability of elected representatives. The car bearing registration number KA 05 GA 2023 had a total fine of Rs 2,500, eligible for settlement at Rs 1,250 under the ongoing 50 per cent discount on traffic penalties. Following widespread criticism, traffic police officials confirmed that the fine was paid on Friday. Of the seven violations, six were for failure to wear a seat belt while seated in the front passenger seat, while the seventh was for overspeeding.The viral video triggered criticism online, with netizens questioning why leaders fail to follow the very rules imposed on citizens. While some demanded stricter enforcement against VIPs, others highlighted the importance of setting an example in road safety. —BMB

Gridlock at underpass triggers citizens outcry

Neighbourhood voices call for stronger regulation to seek lasting solutions for smoother commute

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Residents of Hutchins Road and members of Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike gathered at Lingarajapuram underpass on Friday to stage a symbolic protest in support of their long-standing demand – to deploy traffic police constables to regulate vehicular movement at the underpass. The residents said the underpass, named after Dr Rajkumar, has become a daily choke point, causing severe traffic congestion and affecting thousands of commuters and local residents.

The residents said that traffic gridlock has become routine, particularly during morning and evening peak hours, due to vehicles from five different directions merging at the underpass.

They blamed the traffic police for not regulating vehicular movements during the peak hours. They said that motorists, including two-wheeler riders, suffered greatly due to the traffic jams during the Ganesh festival.

"We have appealed to the traffic police to depute one or two constables to regulate vehicular movement during the peak hours. We are pleased to know that the Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police Inspector agreed to assign constables to manage the traffic at the underpass during the peak hours," said Albert R, Founder Member of Cooke Town Residents' Association.

Demanding that the authorities resolve the problem permanently, Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike president Murali Simhadri said constructing another underpass would be the only solution to traffic jams at the underpass. "We have also requested railway authorities to widen the vent at Banaswadi Railway Station to ensure smooth flow of vehicular traffic. We want the Greater Bengaluru Authority to construct an underpass on the left side of the flyover," Murali said.

The residents demanded the authorities concerned, including Traffic Engineering Cell, and K-RIDE, to implement immediate traffic management measures and simultaneously take up long-term infrastructure solutions to resolve this persistent problem. They also urged the traffic police to restrict the entry of heavy vehicles and install height barricades to prevent large goods vehicles from blocking the roads. They suggest streamlined coordination between the traffic police and traffic engineering cell to devise feasible solutions for traffic management issues.

Meanwhile, Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police Inspector said that he had taken measures to ensure the presence of constables at the underpass during peak hours. "The Traffic Engineering Cell authorities will be visiting the underpass next week to find a permanent solution for the traffic jams at the underpass," the Inspector said.

Residents staging a symbolic protest at Lingarajapuram underpass on Friday

Locals demonstrated at the congested junction where five roads converge. Demanding police oversight to ease daily jams. Their demands included limits on heavy vehicles and permanent engineering measures

Communities adopt eco-friendly practices while keeping festive spirit intact

Residential enclaves are proving that large feasts and floral festivities need not generate waste, thanks to composting, segregation, and reusable cutlery

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Onam celebrations are underway, with vibrant traditional flower rangolis, or pookalams, brightening the festivities. However, festivals often generate large amounts of waste. Minimising this waste has become a key focus, and some apartment communities are setting an example by keeping celebrations as sustainable as possible.

Purva Paradise, one such apartment in Domlur, is promoting greener festivities and working towards achieving zero waste. Deepthi Varghese, who coordinated the celebrations with the caterer, said, "With a little planning, persuasion, and cooperation, making an Onasadya zero-waste is absolutely achievable. A big shout-out to all our like-minded residents who brought their own tumblers and katoris to help reduce waste, we managed to pull off a near-zero-waste apartment Onasadya". Additionally, the flower waste and banana leaves were composted as an ideal way to celebrate.

Odette Katrak from Beautiful Bharat says that more festivals mean more opportunities to encourage sustainable celebrations, ensuring that everyone enjoys themselves while sending minimal waste to landfill, a new but important way of measuring whether a community celebration has been a success. Onam is a wonderful example where the sadya is served on banana leaves, and Malayalees who follow tradition are experts at zero waste dining, eating off the leaf, even liquids – no spoon or katori required – for zero waste dining in its best form.

Katrak added that Beautiful Bharat campaigns continue to push for festival celebrations with less waste to landfill with three focus areas: Discouraging banned items, eliminating disposables, and improving segregation. Banned items include silver-coated disposable plates, silver pouches, NWPP bags, or worse still biodegradable arecanut plates dumped as mixed waste.

She also stressed that apartments need to focus on proper segregation with the placement of bins at such events. Flower waste, which would otherwise end up in landfill generating methane, can be redirected for composting to rejuvenate the soil.

Residents show celebrations can be green and grand

"These leaves and flowers from pookalam make a divine offering back to Mother Earth when converted into rich compost, and it is indeed great that more and more communities are now doing this," she said.

Despite bans, items such as plastic-lined plates or aluminium pouches, and items generating waste like paper cups, bottled water, and tissues are still commonly used by caterers. Most apartments believe that caterers will not cooperate but the good news is that many caterers are now open to avoiding bottled water and instead providing dispensers, which greatly reduces waste.

Katrak noted that most caterers make little effort to dispose of waste correctly. "The waste usually ends up in landfill, when paper table covers are bundled with food waste, leaves, paper cups, tissues, even bottles. By careful placement of bins and folding banana leaves into a green bin and segregating table paper as dry waste, it is easily possible to ensure proper disposal, with food waste composted and dry waste sent for recycling," she said.

Suresh Randadath, a resident said, "From the beginning we, at Casagrand Luxus villa community, avoided plastic bottled water and paper cups for Onam sadhya (feast), by borrowing stainless steel glasses from KR Puram reuse cutlery bank. Once the awareness around avoiding disposables spread, a few residents pooled funds to start our own in-house reuse cutlery bank. We have been reusing this cutlery for all our celebrations including Onam. It is great to see the tremendous support given by all the residents for this initiative and it feels so good that we are not hurting the planet while we celebrate."

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Risky walk
JC Road

Pedestrians endure difficulties on JC Road as footpaths have disappeared, forcing two-wheelers onto the stretch opposite Canara Bank. To worsen matters, the road near Town Hall steps is in a dire condition.

Waste pile
JP Nagar

Piles of rubbish dumped on the footpath at 4th Main, Shreyas Colony, JP Nagar 7th Phase (Ward 195), pose a serious health hazard to residents.

Clutter corner
Wilson Garden

The footpath outside Indira Canteen on BTS Road, Wilson Garden (Hombe Gowda ward), is in poor condition, littered with broken waste carts, rusted bins, plastic debris, and heaps of uncollected.

Stray dog sterilisation stalls as BBMP becomes GBA

Activists condemn negligence behind halted sterilisation programme, urging urgent reforms, strict monitoring committees, and law-compliant action to safeguard public health, animal welfare, and ensure accountability

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While the BBMP ceased to exist and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) came into being, the much hyped and controversial Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme came to a grinding halt. The programme was designed to control the stray dog population through sterilisation and vaccination. As per the plan, the BBMP had decided to establish an ABC centre in each zone. However, as expected, only a handful of these centres had adequate infrastructure and facilities.

Now, all the ABC centres that were operational have stopped conducting sterilisation surgeries under the programme. With the GBA coming into existence, the Animal Husbandry Department is confused about the jurisdiction of each centre. The closure has divided opinion among activists — some criticise the authorities for negligence, while others welcome the decision to discontinue the ABC programme.

"It is outrageous that Bengaluru's Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme has once again been suspended — this time due to expired contracts. That such a crucial, legally mandated public health initiative can be halted without contingency planning reflects gross administrative negligence under Vikas Suralkar and the GBA. This is not an isolated lapse; it follows months of arbitrary disruptions across zones, revealing a disturbing disregard for both public safety and animal welfare," said Lina S, an animal activist from RR Nagar.

She said the repeated failure is not merely mismanagement but an abdication of duty, stressing, "Bengaluru simply cannot afford to be governed with indifference."

Stating that the administrative reason — whether expiry of work orders or the transition to GBA — was irrelevant, animal activist Priya-Chetty Rajagopal expressed concern over the suspension of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme at three centres. "The JD and Additional Directors knew, or should have anticipated, this issue much earlier. Why wait until the last day?" she asked.

She said the sudden halt has left caretakers in a difficult situation. "We had a couple of dogs that were impossible to catch for months, and when we finally managed today, BBMP told us that ABC is cancelled for the next 15 days to a month. Earlier, under Animal Husbandry, such issues would have been anticipated. Informing staff verbally yesterday and telling caretakers like us today, when we were holding dogs ready for neutering, is inexcusable."

However, animal activist Arun Prasad welcomed the shutdown of ABC centres, claiming that BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department officials violated existing norms. "The new ABC programme under the GBA must strictly follow the 2015 and 2016 Apex Court orders in SLP(C) 691/2009 addressed to Chief Secretaries of all states, along with the ABC Rules 2023 and NAPRE Guidelines. I strongly urge the government to appoint a new Special Commissioner for the Animal Husbandry Department," he said.

Sharing the same view, activist Sujaya Jagadish added that considering repeated violations by BBMP in street dog ABC matters, appointing a fresh Special Commissioner under GBA was imperative.

Stray dog control efforts collapse amid confusion over GBA authority

> **That such a crucial, legally mandated public health initiative can be halted without contingency planning reflects gross administrative negligence under Vikas Suralkar and the GBA**
>
> –Lina S, Animal Activist

"The ABC programme must restart in all five Bengaluru City Corporations under GBA, strictly adhering to the Animal Birth Control Rules 2023, AWBI's Standard Operating Procedure, the ULB Law Handbook, and earlier Supreme Court orders," said activist Sujaya Jagadish.

She said the Local Authority ABC Monitoring Committee, State ABC Monitoring Committee, and Karnataka Animal Welfare Board (KAWB) must strictly oversee the program's implementation and take swift action against officials for deviations, ensuring compliance and effective street dog population management. Such measures, she stressed, are vital for public health and peaceful human-animal coexistence. "Corruption and deviations must be ruled out once and for all, with no more pulling the wool over the eyes of the public," she said.

Stating that the reorganisation of administration from BBMP to GBA is an excellent opportunity to correct longstanding shortcomings in the critical public health and safety program of ABC, Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice, said the initiative had been running completely off track. She pointed out the absence of a duly constituted Monitoring Committee and non-adherence to procedures and protocols framed under the Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders of 2015 and 2016, the AWBI Standard Operating Procedures, and the ABC Rules 2023 Gazette.

"The restarting of ABC under the five new City Corporations must strictly respect and obey the law and rules in both letter and spirit. This will safeguard the health and safety of both humans and animals while ushering in a new era of participation, prioritisation, accountability, and transparency," she said.

Officers' ground presence boosts garbage collection

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If you've noticed more regular garbage collection at your doorstep lately, it may be because the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) claims that attendance of auto tippers engaged in solid waste collection has now risen to 95%. The improvement, officials say, is the result of tighter monitoring and revised vehicle scanning schedules.

Stricter checks

According to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), the scanning time for auto tippers has been shifted to between 5.30 am and 6.30 am. CEO Karegowda said that in the past 15 days, senior officials including the COO, four DGMs, 28 AGMs, the Chief Marshal, and other staff have been visiting nearly 200 mustering centres daily to check attendance of auto tippers and pourakarmikas.

"Because of this routine monitoring, the attendance of auto tippers has increased from 85% to 95%," CEO Karegowda said. He added that auto tippers are also being instructed to collect wet and dry waste separately from households, reducing the tendency of residents to dump mixed waste on roadsides.

Officers on ground

Officials believe the physical presence of senior staff has brought in greater discipline and accountability. Every morning, the CEO, COO, DGMs, and AGMs personally supervise roll call at mustering centres to ensure workers and vehicles are ready for duty. This direct oversight, they claim, has translated into more reliable service delivery.

Authorities also say higher attendance has contributed to a visible reduction in roadside dumping, strengthening Bengaluru's cleanliness drive. They maintain that further measures will be introduced to sustain consistency and improve waste management systems. However, some residents insist that trash continues to accumulate in certain areas despite the claims.

Tech-driven monitoring

To verify that senior officers are indeed visiting mustering centres, the GBA has rolled out a new "Track Duty" software. The tool records and confirms the physical presence of officials on site, allowing real-time online monitoring of attendance.

"All officials' visits can now be tracked online," Karegowda said, adding that the digital platform will ensure transparency and accountability while sustaining the higher attendance of waste collection vehicles.

Rising demand for farmlands with farmhouses

New rules and assured security make private cultivation a safe bet for investors

Tired of Bengaluru's traffic and yearning for fresh air, many urban residents are increasingly looking at farmhouses on the outskirts of the city as weekend getaways. These green retreats are gaining popularity for relaxation while also serving as profitable investments.

Farmland with resort-like amenities

Developers are now offering fertile farmland that comes with the option of fully developed farmhouses and resort-style amenities. Buyers are not only using these as

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

second homes but also cultivating sandalwood, fruits, vegetables, and spices—making it both a lifestyle choice and an income source.

One investment, four benefits

According to developers, farmlands provide fourfold benefits: real estate appreciation, resort facilities, agricultural returns, and sandalwood cultivation. "Investors are assured that their capital will double in a few years," said Devi D, a realtor.

Sandalwood popularity surges

Cultivating sandalwood trees has become a new trend. Once considered risky due to security concerns, but with new government guidelines providing police protection even for sandalwood trees grown on private land, investors find it safe. Developers also take full responsibility for maintenance and protection, making it a hassle-free option.

Strategic location boosts value

The Bengaluru-Mysuru corridor is witnessing rapid infrastructure growth, including the upcoming Mysuru Peripheral Ring Road. With improved connectivity, travel time from Mysuru to these farmlands has reduced to just 15 minutes. The New Mysuru township project is also expected to bring surrounding regions into city limits, further enhancing land values, said Manas Kumari, a buyer.

–Prakash VL

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North Bengaluru emerging as a prime real estate hub

North Bengaluru, especially Devanahalli, is rapidly attracting the attention of property buyers and investors. Developers say the region offers strong connectivity, ongoing infrastructure projects, and long-term growth potential. " Prices remain reasonable compared with central Bengaluru, but the potential for appreciation is tremendous," said a developer. Modern amenities, green spaces, and gated communities are also making the area appealing to families and professionals. "Infrastructure in IT corridors, logistics parks, and education is shaping North Bengaluru into a complete ecosystem for living and investment," said a spokesperson. –BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

LURKING SILENT DEATH

Our reader shares an intriguing image of a spider masterfully camouflaged among the spiny twigs of a hedge plant, lying in wait for its unsuspecting prey. A nearby fly, oblivious to the lurking predator, adds a dramatic touch to this moment in nature—showcasing the art of survival and deception in the wild.

The picture was clicked by reader **A Avani**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Old Yelahanka bus stand crumbles under neglect and mismanagement

Potholes, locked toilets, and erratic bus services turn a once promising transit hub into a daily ordeal for thousands of commuters

The Old Yelahanka bus stand, inaugurated with much fanfare in 2012–13, is today a picture of neglect and mismanagement. What was once meant to be a convenient transit hub has now turned into a space of daily struggle for commuters.

Buses operate on nearly 280 routes from this terminal, connecting Old Yelahanka to various parts of Bengaluru and beyond. Thousands rely on it every day, yet the basic infrastructure that was promised has all but disappeared.

Deep potholes mar the premises, turning into pools of water during rains. As buses drive through, passengers are splashed with muddy water, adding to their frustration. The toilets inside the bus stand remain locked, forcing passengers to relieve themselves in corners, making the entire facility unhygienic and unpleasant.

Another persistent issue is the irregularity of bus services. Commuters, especially

Neglected Old Yelahanka bus stand faces civic apathy

those on route 23770, complain that buses rarely arrive on time. Many are left waiting for hours, only to be told later that buses have been diverted to the main road without halting at the stand. For office-goers and daily wage workers, these delays translate into late arrivals at work and, in some cases, financial losses.

D. Sudhakar, a regular passenger traveling to Hessarghatta for work, expressed his frustration: "Three days a week, the morning bus that is supposed to stop here never arrives. When we ask the staff, they say it has taken the main road instead. They just ask us to check at the depot. This has caused immense difficulty for my job."

Even bus drivers and staff are not spared. They say navigating the potholes inside the terminal requires extra caution, slowing operations and increasing the risk of accidents. The lack of functional toilets also affects them, as they spend long hours waiting between trips.

More than a decade after its inauguration, the Old Yelahanka bus stand has become a glaring symbol of civic neglect. Commuters demand urgent action to repair potholes, unlock and maintain toilets, and ensure buses adhere to schedules. Unless the authorities intervene, this so-called transit hub will continue to remain a hub of chaos, leaving thousands of passengers stranded and frustrated every single day. — **BMB**

Drivers face extra risk navigating pothole-ridden premises, slowing operations and increasing chances of accidents inside the bus stand

DID YOU KNOW?

When the lights flicker on at the US Open, they shine with a purpose — reducing light pollution. The USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in Flushing Meadows is the only pro sports venue certified by DarkSky International, an organization dedicated to preserving the night sky. Shielded LED lights, installed during a decade of renovations, focus illumination on the courts without spilling into surrounding skies, benefiting both players and wildlife. Excessive night lighting disrupts bird migration and confuses nocturnal creatures like frogs and fireflies. DarkSky-approved systems, like those at Arthur Ashe Stadium and 21 other courts, minimize glare while ensuring visibility for crowds and TV broadcasts. This approach, though 5–10% costlier, promotes responsible nighttime recreation. DarkSky has certified over 30 sports venues since 2019, including parks and schools across North America. Communities in Arizona and Canada have followed suit, balancing sports with stargazing and wildlife protection. Experts note that no system eliminates light pollution entirely, but improvements matter. As urban areas glow brightly, small steps like shielded sports lighting can make a big difference for the environment and our view of the stars. — **AP**

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Govt cautions against scam job portals: Fake, not official

Claim: Websites such as viksitbharatrozgaryojana.org and pmviksitbharatrozgaryojana.com claim to be official portals of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, offering pan-India recruitment under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana and inviting job applications from citizens.
Fact: The Ministry clarified it has no association with these websites. The official Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana portals are pmvbry.epfindia.gov.in and pmvbry.labour.gov.in. PIB Fact Check confirmed these portals are fake. Citizens should report suspected cybercrimes at cybercrime.gov.in.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment on Wednesday warned citizens about two websites posing as official government portals and inviting job applications under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana.

"It has come to the notice of the Ministry of Labour & Employment that certain websites such as https://viksitbharatrozgaryojana.org/ and https://pmviksitbharatrozgaryojana.com/ are falsely claiming to be undertakings of the Government of India and allegedly inviting applications for recruitment at pan-India locations under the name of the Ministry," the ministry said in a statement. It denied any association with these websites or their activities and advised citizens not to share personal information, engage with, or make any payments through such portals.

PIB Fact Check, the fact-checking unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), also labelled viksitbharatrozgaryojana.org a fake portal, confirming it has no connection with the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

"A website (https://viksitbharatrozgaryojana.org) is falsely claiming to recruit for various positions across India, portraying itself as an organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Labour & Employment (@LabourMinistry)," PIB Fact Check said in a post on X.

According to the ministry, the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana portal, which facilitates registrations under the scheme announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 12th Independence Day address, went live in August.

"For authentic information and services under the scheme, employers can visit the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana portal (https://pmvbry.epfindia.gov.in or https://pmvbry.labour.gov.in) and complete the one-time registration process," it said.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has warned citizens about fake websites impersonating government portals and inviting job applications under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

The ministry urged citizens, employers, and stakeholders to remain vigilant against fraudulent websites and false recruitment claims. PIB Fact Check advised people to visit the official portals and report suspected cybercrimes at https://cybercrime.gov.in.

Official portals for Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana are pmvbry.epfindia.gov.in and pmvbry.labour.gov.in, not the fake websites circulating online.

Sweet-toothed elephant causes trouble on Bandipur highway

Bandipur's wild elephant ditches forest fodder for highway snacks, leaving motorists terrified and officials scrambling for long-term solutions

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Highway raider elephant pulls at tarpaulin-covered cargo, a routine menace for truckers transporting vegetables and sugarcane through Bandipur

A wild elephant in Bandipur National Park has turned NH-706 into a danger zone, raiding vegetable trucks daily, endangering motorists and two-wheelers, as forest officials struggle to manage its food-seeking behaviour

Are you driving safely on the Bandipur highway? For many motorists, the answer is increasingly no, thanks to a wild elephant that has developed an unusual craving for truckloads of vegetables and sugarcane. What began as a one-off feeding opportunity has now become a daily menace, turning National Highway 706 — which cuts through Bandipur National Park — into a danger zone for vehicles.

The tusker, once a regular forest dweller, now prefers human-supplied snacks to the abundant bamboo and lush greenery available in the park. Forest officials believe the animal's behaviour started when vegetable and sugarcane trucks stopped along the route or spilled produce on the road. Finding an easy meal, the elephant began frequenting the highway every morning and evening, waiting for its "fast food delivery."

For motorists, the sight is far from amusing. Several drivers have faced terrifying encounters — tarpaulin sheets torn apart, ropes snapped, vehicle glass smashed, and in some cases, the elephant tugging at vehicles. Two-wheeler riders face an even greater risk if the tusker blocks their path or pushes them down. "Drivers fear not just losing their cargo but also being dragged out or attacked if they resist," said a local resident.

The situation worsens when tourists stop to take selfies or videos, often placing themselves in the elephant's path. On August 3, a man from Nanjangud narrowly escaped with his life after coming too close for a photograph.

Officials are grappling with solutions. The Forest Department is considering restrictions on the movement of vegetable and sugarcane trucks after 6 p.m., though a night ban is already in force from 9 p.m. onwards. However, authorities admit the measure might not work, as delayed trucks often park near forest gates, where the elephant intercepts them.

Attempts to drive the tusker back into the forest have also failed, sometimes provoking aggression. Forest guards have been chased during such operations. A senior official said, "Apart from snatching food, the elephant has not caused major harm so far. But once an animal picks up such a habit, capturing it is not a solution. If we start capturing elephants for this behaviour, we would have to capture many more."

Until a permanent solution is found, motorists traveling through Bandipur are being urged to exercise caution and avoid stopping on the highway at any cost.

SOCIALTATTLE

IMAGE OF THE DAY

The message outside a coffee shop has caught people's eyes... with good reason. https://x.com/dp_satish/status/1963491350621687859?t=svo4HA6E5SfKIn-j14TR-w&s=08

WHAT'S TWEETING

Bengaluru auto driver upgrades regular seat with gaming chair, and of course Bengaluru is game. https://x.com/akhileshyolo/status/1963536874074419274

INSTA WORTHY

Influencer couple's expenses: An Instagram video from a travel influencer couple, detailing their August expenses of Rs 5.9 lakh in Bengaluru, has sparked a debate on the city's high cost of living: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DOFiRO0Caf0/?igsh=bmczbng2Nzl2OWY5

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BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

Our story on shady deals pertaining to khata conversions has raked up quite a conversation.

IN BRIEF

Karnataka ranks second in NCCRP

Karnataka ranks second nationwide for complaints on the National Consumer Complaints Redressal Portal (NCCRP), recording 62 cases. Maharashtra leads with 76 complaints, while Tamil Nadu follows Karnataka with 45, and Telangana ranks fourth with 40. Uttar Pradesh reported 38 cases, Delhi 33, and West Bengal 30. Among southern states, Kerala logged 23 and Andhra Pradesh 21, while Gujarat registered 22 complaints. Other states together accounted for 128 cases. In total, the NCCRP received 518 complaints across the country, highlighting growing consumer awareness and reliance on digital grievance redressal mechanisms. **–BMB**

Cabinet approves withdrawal of 60 cases

The Karnataka cabinet has decided to withdraw 60 criminal cases, including several involving the family and supporters of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. The withdrawn cases include those related to a 2019 stone-pelting incident in Chittapur and cases against Shivakumar's supporters accused of attacking buses and government offices in Kanakapura following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. Cases linked to his brother, MP DK Suresh, have also been dropped. These stem from a 2012 protest where supporters allegedly surrounded the then-Chief Minister over Shivakumar's exclusion from a public event.

The decision comes despite opposition from key departments such as the Home Department and the Director of Prosecutions and Government Litigations. Besides the Shivakumar-related cases, withdrawals cover cases involving pro-farmer, pro-Dalit, and pro-Kannada activists, political party workers, and individuals booked during Ganesha procession skirmishes.

The withdrawal process begins with representations from the public or their representatives, followed by scrutiny by the Home Department, DGP, Director of Prosecutions, and the Law Department. A Cabinet Sub-Committee reviews these cases before the final cabinet approval. **-BMB**

Women activists seek Sonia's intervention in Dharmasthala case

Around 40 women activists from Karnataka, including noted personalities such as actress and activist Arundhati Nag and filmmaker Kavita Lankesh, have written to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi seeking her intervention in the Dharmasthala murders case. The activists have expressed strong objections to recent statements by Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar, which they claim "trivialise decades of lives lost" and "undermine the independence" of the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The activists have launched a campaign titled "Who killed women in Dharmasthala?" to demand an impartial probe into the murders. In their letter, they emphasized that the investigation must focus solely on ensuring justice for women and other victims, without being compromised by religious or political considerations.

They urged Sonia Gandhi, as a senior woman leader in the party, to support their cause and safeguard the integrity of the inquiry. The activists warned that sacrificing justice "at the altar of political or religious expediency" would further marginalize victims and set a dangerous precedent. **-BMB**

Contractor dismisses flyover safety fears

Barely six months after its completion, the flyover near Katamnallur on the Hoskote–Whitefield road is showing alarming signs of poor construction, with protective slabs on the ramp walls on the verge of collapse. Commuters say the shoddy work has turned the structure into a death trap, forcing motorists to risk their lives daily on the service road. Tensions escalated on Wednesday when media representatives visiting the spot during a final bill inspection were met with rude behavior from the contractor, who dismissed safety concerns. He claimed the government had released insufficient funds and insisted he was not responsible if accidents occurred. Local residents and activists allege substandard materials were used, demanding immediate demolition and reconstruction. "The slabs are collapsing, and officials including the Deputy Commissioner haven't even visited the site," warned Kiran Kumar, state president of Karnataka Ahinda Rakshana Samiti. **–BMB**

Chinnaswamy stadium to host KSCA's pre-season red-ball tournament

Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium will be hosting cricket matches for the first time since the stampede outside its premises in June this year, just a day following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title win during the victory celebrations. The stadium is one of the designated venues for the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) organised K Thimmappiah Memorial Trophy, a red-ball pre-season tournament featuring 16 teams. Chinnaswamy will be hosting a total of six matches, including a semifinal and a final, on September 26 onwards. However, fans would not be allowed inside the stadium, as per ESPNCricinfo. **–ANI**

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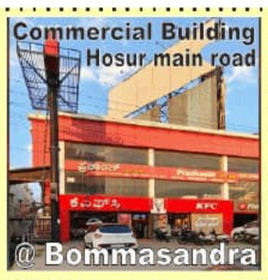

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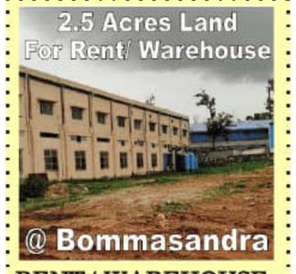

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I, Aarcha Ann Lino, D/O Lino K. Thomas, R/O Shivaganga Splendour, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name from Aarcha Lino to Aarcha Ann Lino (as per affidavit no. IN-KA34902742277923X) for all intents and purposes.

I, Prabhakara Rao S/o Srinivasa Rao R/o 21, Dee Enclave, 2nd Cross, Sahakar Nagar Post, Kodige Halli, Bengaluru 560092 have changed my name to Kenjar Prabhakar Rao for all purposes

I, Arun Babu G R/o No J 404 Eta Star Garden Near Anga Laparameshwari Temple Magadi Road Bengaluru 560023 have changed my minor daughter's name from Nidhisha to Nidhisha Arun for all purposes

I, Gowthami Renny Renny Cherian W/o, Nikhil Abraham Oommen R/o No C-417 Mahendra Aarya, Heelalige Road Electronic City Phase 2, bengaluru 560099 have changed my name to Gowthami Renny for all purposes

I Hemant Rathore S/O Ashok Kumar, R/O C-413 V Classic Apartment Dasappa Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore have changed my name to Hemant Singh Rathore wrt. affidavit no IN-KA3587768 8335546X Dated 04 sept 2025

I Sudeep Pradhan Sadanandarao S/O, Sadanandarao R/o Sri Durge 271/22a, 15th Cross 8th Main Lakkasandra Extension Wilson Garden Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to Sudeep Pradhan

I, Deepika Shivaramaiah D/o Shivaramaiah Siddaiah, R/o 1st Flr, 2220, 5th Cross, 17th A Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560008, have changed my name from Deepika S to Deepika Shivaramaiah w.e.f. 04/09/2025

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'I'm slightly frightened of him'

Jim Sarbh says he has been a fan of his co-star Manoj Bajpayee's work for years

Actor Jim Sarbh says working alongside Manoj Bajpayee has been both intimidating and inspiring as he continues to remain in awe of the senior performer's ability to transform even the simplest of moments into something unforgettable.

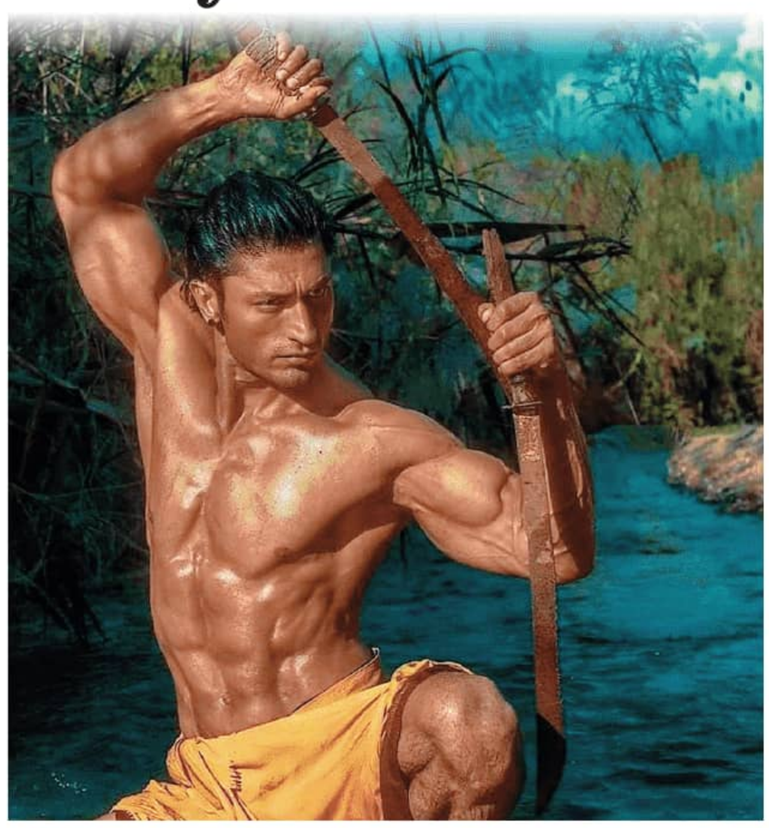
The two actors share the screen space in the movie "Inspector Zende", which premieres on streaming service Netflix on Friday. It is directed by acclaimed Marathi actor-turned-filmmaker Chinmay Mandlekar. The film features Bajpayee in the titular role of a sharp-witted cop locked in a tense game of cat and mouse with Sarbh's charming yet elusive Carl Bhojraj. It is loosely inspired by the real-life arrest of notorious serial killer Charles Sobhraj by Mumbai police officer Madhukar Zende.

Sarbh says he has been a fan of Manoj Bajpayee's work for years, recalling the impact of his performance in Anurag Kashyap's crime epic "Gangs of Wasseypur".

"I'll never forget that scene in 'Gangs of Wasseypur', when he's pretending to wash the clothes. I was like, 'Oh my God, I'm going to watch everything this man has done'. It was so funny, and he did it so well. I'm still slightly frightened of him, and I'm still a bit on edge about what his character may do," the 38-year-old actor told PTI in an interview.

"I'm amazed how as an actor he is able to stay completely rooted in the character, and add these little nuances that make you suddenly love the scene and it opens up completely. He can do anything," Sarbh said, adding that he is also looking forward to watching Bajpayee's another upcoming release "Jugnuma". —PTI

Hollywood debut



Action star Vidyut Jammwal has been officially cast in Hollywood studio Paramount Pictures' upcoming live-action reboot of "Street Fighter".

The film, slated for release on October 16, 2026, will mark the Hollywood debut of Jammwal, known for headlining action movies such as "Commando" movies, "Khuda Hafiz" and "Baadshaho".

Paramount Pictures, in collaboration with Legendary Entertainment and Capcom, revealed the full cast on the film's official Instagram handle on Friday.

"Secrets don't last long in the arena—Street Fighter is now in production. In theaters October 16, 2026. Let the tournament begin!" read the post.

In the movie, Jammwal will feature alongside a star-studded cast of Andrew Koji, Noah Centineo, Jason Momoa, Callina Liang, Roman Reigns, Orville Peck, Cody Rhodes, Andrew Schulz, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and David Dastmalchian.

He will essay the role of Dhalsim, a yogi with fire-spitting abilities, a fundamentally peaceful man who fights to support his family. Koji will essay the role of Ryu, Centineo as Ken, Liang as Chun-Li, Dastmalchian as M. Bison, Rhodes as Guile, Momoa as Blanka, Jackson as Balrog, Peck as Vega, Schulz as Dan Hibiki, Reigns as Akuma, and Hirooki Goto as E. Honda.

The project is being directed by filmmaker Kitao Sakurai, known for movies such as "Bad Trip" and "Aardvark". —PTI

A touching tale of loyalty

NAANU MATTHU GUNDA 2

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Raghu Hassan
- **ACTORS** RRakesh Adiga, Rachana Inder, Govinde Gowda, Avinash, Manju Pavagada, Vijay Chendur, Sadhu Kokila
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 154 minutes

Raghu Hassan, known for handling the megaphone for Kannada movies Thathaasthu and Gandhigiri, bankrolled Naanu Matthu Gunda that was released in January 2020, has directed and bankrolled this sequel. Kudos to the director for doing a good job. He has made sure that the film has all elements such as comic moments and scenes where the audience can empathise with the protagonist and the female lead. The Labrador Simba (Gunda) also tugs at heart stings. Its innocent face makes the audiences to have an emotional connection with it.

The movie begins with Gunda waiting at its master Shankara's (Shivraj KR Pete) grave. The movie follows the tale of rebirth as Shankara is reborn and comes closer with Gunda. Shankara, as a school-going boy, hates Gunda for following him wherever he goes. He tied Gunda with a rope in a shed. His father Bhoori (Shankare Gowda) comes to know about it. He narrates to his son who is Gunda. As fate would have it, Gunda dies of heart attack. Shankara suffers from epilepsy while attending Gunda's funeral.

At this juncture, the director shows a dream that Shankara (Rakesh Adiga) has that Gunda is reborn. He leaves home in search of Gunda. Meanwhile, the scene shifts to Ooty where Indu (Rachana Inder), the daughter of businessman Dasarath Gowda (Avinash) is making a futile attempt to end her life. Indu wants to jump from a cliff but she does not want injuries to her body and or damage to her clothes. While she is attempting to end her life, she finds a puppy wandering on the cliff. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to the puppy and Indu and also to Shankara.

Rakesh Adiga is at his best. Rachana Inder matches Rakesh Adiga in her acting skills. Her dialogue delivery and gestures are good. Her gestures and dialogues tickle audiences' funny bones of audiences. Avinash, Vijay Chendur, Govinde Gowda provide good support. Manju Pavagada, as a police inspector, provides comedy. However, Sadhu Kokila fails to meet audiences' expectations.

Songs are melodious and RP Patnaik's music is lilting.

It is worth a watch for family audiences. —Y Maheswara Reddy

HIGH COURT

'Bizarre' re-investigation order struck down

The Karnataka High Court has quashed a trial court order that directed the police to carry out a "re or further" investigation into a criminal case, terming the directive "bizarre" and "illegal".

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the trial court had "freely used the words 're' or 'further' investigation, interchangeably, oblivious to their profound distinction in criminal jurisprudence."

The bench held that such directions reflected a basic misunderstanding of law.

Clarifying the legal position, the court explained that the power to order a re-investigation, de novo investigation, or transfer of investigation to another agency lies exclusively with constitutional courts while exercising jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution or their inherent powers under Section 482 of the CrPC. A trial court, on the other hand, is limited to ordering further investigation under Section 173(8) of the CrPC — and only when a police report such as a charge sheet or closure report has already been filed.

In the present case, the police had not yet filed any investigation report under Section 173(2) of the CrPC despite earlier directions. Hence, the trial court had no basis to order further investigation.

"The question of further investigation arises only when the trial court is not satisfied with the report filed by the police," Justice Nagaprasanna observed, remitting the matter back for fresh consideration "strictly in consonance with law."

The case arose from a complaint by an elder son alleging misuse of his late father's Aadhaar and mobile number for filing GST returns. **BMB**

Lokayukta cleared to file chargesheet in Sudha case

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash a disproportionate assets case against Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officer B Sudha, holding that the charges against her are "deeply seeped in corruption." The court also vacated its earlier stay that had restrained the Lokayukta police from filing a chargesheet without prior approval.

Justice M Nagaprasanna dismissed the petition filed by Sudha and her husband, Stroiny Joseph Pais, arraigned as accused no. 2. While noting that the contents of the chargesheet would not be reproduced to avoid prejudice, the judge said the documents collected during investigation established a prima facie case warranting trial. "The offences alleged are grave. Prima facie, all of them are met, and the acts of petitioner no. 1 [Sudha], in particular, deeply seeped in corruption," the order stated.

Earlier, the Lokayukta police had submitted the proposed chargesheet to the High Court since an interim order of August 2024 had barred them from filing it before the special court. Rejecting Sudha's argument that the investigation was illegal, the court clarified that Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which governs disproportionate assets cases, does not require prior approval for initiating a probe.

The case originated from a 2020 private complaint by Abraham TJ, alleging that Sudha, during her tenure with the Bangalore Development Authority, amassed multiple properties in Bengaluru, Udupi, and Doddaballapur using bribes collected through intermediaries. Initially investigated by the now-defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), it was later transferred to the Lokayukta police. With the High Court's order, the way is clear for filing a chargesheet and proceeding with trial. **BMB**

Engg student accused of rape gets bail

The Karnataka High Court has granted bail to a 21-year-old engineering student from Puttur, Dakshina Kannada district, who has been accused of repeatedly raping a woman through deceitful means.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magdum, on September 3, ordered the release of Shrikrishna J Rao, a resident of Puttur Kasaba village, who had been in judicial custody since his arrest by the District Women Police on July 5.

The court, while examining the complaint, noted that the woman had admitted to being in a relationship with Rao and had frequently visited his residence. Justice Magdum observed that, prima facie, the allegations suggested the physical relationship between the two adults appeared consensual — a matter that required determination during a full-fledged trial.

The judge further pointed out that the investigation had beena completed, the final charge sheet had been filed, and the petitioner's blood sample had already been collected. In such circumstances, keeping the accused in custody would amount to a violation of his fundamental right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, the court held.

Ordering his release, the court directed Rao to furnish a bond of Rs 1 lakh with one surety of the same amount. He was also instructed to appear before the trial court on all hearing dates, not to tamper with prosecution witnesses, and not to leave the jurisdiction without prior permission.

Following the High Court order, Rao produced the bail order before the Principal Civil Judge and JMFC, Puttur, on September 4. After completing the necessary formalities, he was released from Mangaluru Prison the same day.

Rao, along with three others, has been booked under Sections 64(2)(m) (repeated rape of the same woman), 69 (sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means), and 249 (harbouring offender) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), based on the complaint filed by the woman, who alleged that he had sexually assaulted her and that she became pregnant as a result. **BMB**

Experts call for better charging infra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

electric buses on the city's roads should be increased not just for the reduction in tailpipe emissions, but also to improve the traffic situation. Buses carry a good load of passengers sharing a trip, leading to a win-win situation," said Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

However, with the state transport corporation suffering financial losses from providing free travel to women under the Shakti scheme, corporations bringing in a new fleet of electric buses seems unlikely, experts speculate.

"Unless the state government incentivises the corporations to buy electric buses, this suggestion has little prospect. However, the number of cars, whether electric or those operating on conventional fuel sources, should be brought down to improve the traffic situation," said a mobility expert.

While the number of EVs is slowly but steadily going up, a more data-driven scientific approach to plan and deploy charging infrastructure is still missing in Bengaluru, experts say. The current scale-up rate of charging infrastructure is happening organically, leading to a slower pace than required.

"Range anxiety among users may be lessened now with new vehicle models giving enough range for a daily commute. However, home charging is still an issue and is not accessible to everyone. The public charging infrastructure is mostly provided by vendors or manufacturers. The pressing priority is a data-driven, scientific approach to pinpointing the location and density of charging infrastructure based on travel behavior and travel patterns of commuters," added Professor Verma.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Celebrations Rallies taken out during Eid celebrations around JC Road on Friday

Baby-lifters on the prowl

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had fled with the baby on a bus. She confessed to the crime, telling the police that she intended to use the child for begging. The baby was rescued, and the accused was remanded to judicial custody.

Children as commodities

Police and child rights activists caution that such incidents are not isolated but part of a larger, organised network of child exploitation. Infants and toddlers, owing to their vulnerability, are the most frequent targets. Children kidnapped are often drugged or deliberately made to look malnourished to elicit sympathy while begging. Older children are pushed into forced labour at roadside stalls, in households, or even illegal trades, while in some cases, children are "rented out" among beggars to maximise earnings. A senior police officer noted that these abductions reflect a disturbing trend of children being reduced to tools for easy money, with footpaths, hospitals, and fairs emerging as hotspots as migrant families with infants often sleep unprotected in such areas.

Shocking figures

Between 2020 and 2024, Karnataka recorded 12,790 child kidnapping cases, with 1,334 children still untraced, the majority from Bengaluru. Another report highlights 14,878 missing children cases during the same period, of which 1,336 remain unaccounted for, disproportionately girls, with 1,003 still missing compared to 333 boys.

A separate tally further reveals 13,552 kidnapping cases since 2020, with nearly 72% of the victims being girls, underscoring the gendered nature of the crime. Alongside kidnappings, child exploitation rackets remain rampant. In April 2024, a joint operation by Bengaluru police and the Child Welfare Committee rescued 47 minors, including infants under one year, from begging rings in Pulakeshi Nagar.

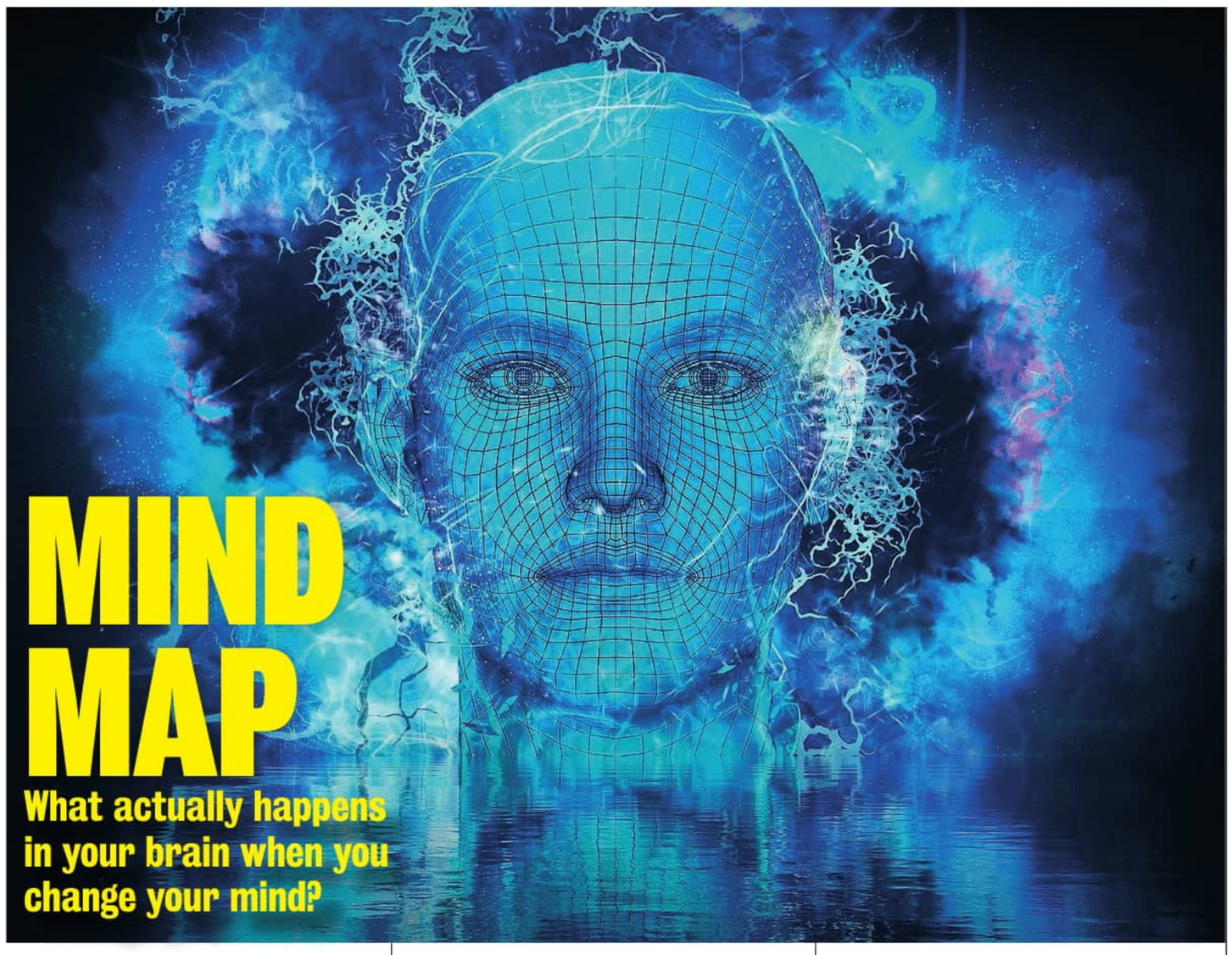
In the Kalyana Karnataka region alone, 340 children were found begging over four years, many under the grip of organised criminal networks, despite the state spending ₹306 crore on relief centres and awareness programmes.

Rising cases, weak protection

With Bengaluru witnessing a growing influx of migrant labourers and pavement dwellers, cases of child abduction for begging have increased. Activists say that desperate families who migrate for work become the most vulnerable targets. "Poverty and lack of shelter make these families extremely vulnerable, and organised gangs are exploiting that reality," a city-based child rights activist told BM.

HEALTH TIP: Granola bars are packed with added sugars, refined grains, and some artificial flavours and preservatives

Replace it with low sugar or homemade versions made with oats, nuts, seeds, and just a touch of natural sweetener like dates or honey



MIND MAP

What actually happens in your brain when you change your mind?

Imagine a game show where the host asks the contestant to randomly pick one option out of three: A, B or C.

After the contestant chooses, say, option B, the host reveals one of the remaining choices (say C) does not contain the prize. In the final step, the contestant is asked whether they want to change their mind and select the remaining option A or stick with their original choice, B.

Dubbed the Monty Hall problem after an American game show host, this famous puzzle has entertained mathematicians for decades. But it can also tell us something about how the human mind and brain function.

Why do some people choose to change their minds while others stick with their first choice? What would you do and what might your choice reveal about your mind?

Choosing when to change

Research on changes of mind uses the concept of "metacognition" to explain when and how mind changes occur. Broadly speaking, metacognition refers to psychological and biological processes that inform us about how well we are doing the task.

In a sense, metacognition is that inner voice telling us we are either on track or that we should try harder.

Intuitively, changes of mind may be triggered by low confidence in our initial choice. Yet, when my colleagues and I reviewed the research on changes of mind about a range of different kinds of decisions, we found many studies showing people change their minds less often than you might think. This was surprising, given how often we feel uncertain about our choices.

On the other hand, when people do choose to change their mind, it is often for the better. This ability to accurately gauge whether to change your mind is referred to as metacognitive sensitivity.

Our research has found people often make better decisions about whether to change their minds when they are put under time pressure.

Understanding more about how we decide to change our minds may lead to ways to train our minds to make better choices.

Our brains show when we will change our minds

Another interesting question about changes of mind is when do people choose to change their minds. The answer to this question might seem obvious, as people can change their minds only after they have made the first choice.

To find out more about this process, we measured people's brain activity before they even made their initial choice in a laboratory task that involved answering questions about moving images on a screen. We successfully predicted changes of mind seconds before they took place.

These findings suggest brain activity that predicts changes of mind could be harnessed to improve the quality of the initial choices, without needing a change of mind later. Training based on this brain activity may help people in sensitive professions such as health or defence make better choices.

Why don't we change our minds more often?

Research on metacognition has provided robust evidence that changes of mind tend to improve choice outcomes. So why are people so reluctant to change their minds?

There are at least two possible reasons. First, deciding to change your mind is typically a result of making extra cognitive effort to analyse the quality of the initial choices. Not every decision requires that effort, and most everyday choices can be good enough rather than perfect.

For example, choosing a wrong brand of orange-flavoured soft drink will probably not significantly impact our wellbeing. In fact, consumer research shows buyers tend to report higher product satisfaction when offered fewer choices, a phenomenon called "the paradox of choice". This suggests having more choices and, therefore, greater opportunity to change one's mind may be more cognitively effortful.

Second, frequent changes of mind may signal personality traits that are not socially desirable. Meaningful and fulfilling interpersonal relationships rely on the ability to predict and rely on another person's actions.

Erratic and frequent changes of mind could negatively impact relationships and people may avoid doing this to improve their social integration.

The future of changing your mind

The science of changes of mind is an exciting field of research, developing at a fast pace.

Future developments in the field might focus on identifying specific brain activity markers of subsequent correct changes of mind. If reliable and valid markers are found, they could be harnessed to help people become experts on when they should change their minds to achieve better professional and social outcomes.

Oh, and coming back to the Monty Hall problem: if you ever do find yourself offered this choice by a game show host, you should definitely change your mind. In this scenario, for mathematical reasons, switching away from your first pick will double your chances of winning.

(By Dragan Rangelov, Swinburne University of Technology, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Cardiovascular diseases cause one-third of all deaths in India: Report

Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of mortality in India, causing nearly 31 per cent of deaths, according to the latest data presented by the Sample Registration Survey under the Registrar General of India.

The Report on Causes of Death: 2021-2023, issued on Wednesday, said non-communicable diseases are the leading causes of death in the country, constituting 56.7 per cent of all deaths.

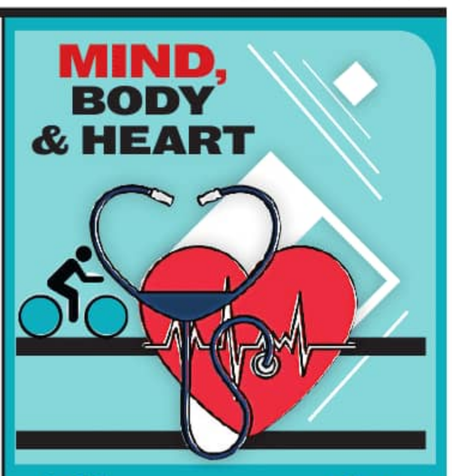
"Communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions constitute another 23.4 per cent of deaths. In the 2020-2022 (affected by COVID) period, the corresponding values were 55.7 per cent and 24.0 per cent, respectively," it said.

The report said that overall cardiovascular disease remained the leading cause of death, claiming nearly 31 per cent of lives, followed by respiratory infections at 9.3 per cent, malignant and other neoplasms at 6.4 per cent, and respiratory diseases at 5.7 per cent.

The cardiovascular diseases, a lifestyle phenomenon, are the leading cause in the 30-plus age group, while intentional injuries-suicide is the most common cause of death in the 15-29 age group.

Among other causes of death flagged by the report are digestive diseases, 5.3 per cent, fever of unknown origin, 4.9 per cent, unintentional injuries: other than motor vehicle accidents, 3.7 per cent, diabetes mellitus, 3.5 per cent, and genitourinary diseases, 3.0 per cent."Injuries constitute 9.4 per cent of deaths and ill-defined causes constitute 10.5 per cent of deaths. However, the majority of ill-defined causes are at older ages (70 or higher years)," it said.

The report cautioned that the results must be interpreted carefully as the chance of misclassification of causes is not completely ruled out. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Nail hygiene tips

1. Wash hands & nails
When you wash your hands, don't forget to wash your nails too, especially under the tips. Make it a regular habit, which will not only protect the nails from infection but will also keep your hands looking fresh and clean. Use a soft nail brush to cleanse your nail while you wash your hand, as this will help prevent the nail from getting damaged.

2. Trim your nails
Trimming your nail is essential to maintain a healthy nail free from infections. If your nails are too long, they will lead to breaking easily, splitting, and getting caught on objects, which will create wounds and even lead to bleeding and create a bacteria or infection around them. To maintain healthy nails, trim them straight across and gently round the edges. This simple technique will help prevent painful ingrown nails, which can easily cause infection to the nails.

3. Don't cut cuticles
Cuticles play an important role in protecting the nails from infections. They act as a natural barrier by preventing the bacteria and dirt from entering the delicate area where your nails meet the skin. If you cut them off, it will lead to opening the skin, leading to redness, swelling, or infections. Instead of trimming off the cuticles, push them back after a shower or when you wet your nails. A

4. Moisturise
Not only on your hands and body, keeping your nails hydrated and moisturized is necessary to keep them strong and healthy. 4. Moisturise not only on your hands and body, keeping your nails hydrated and moisturized is necessary to keep them strong and healthy.

—Femina

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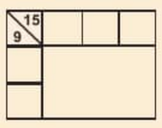
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

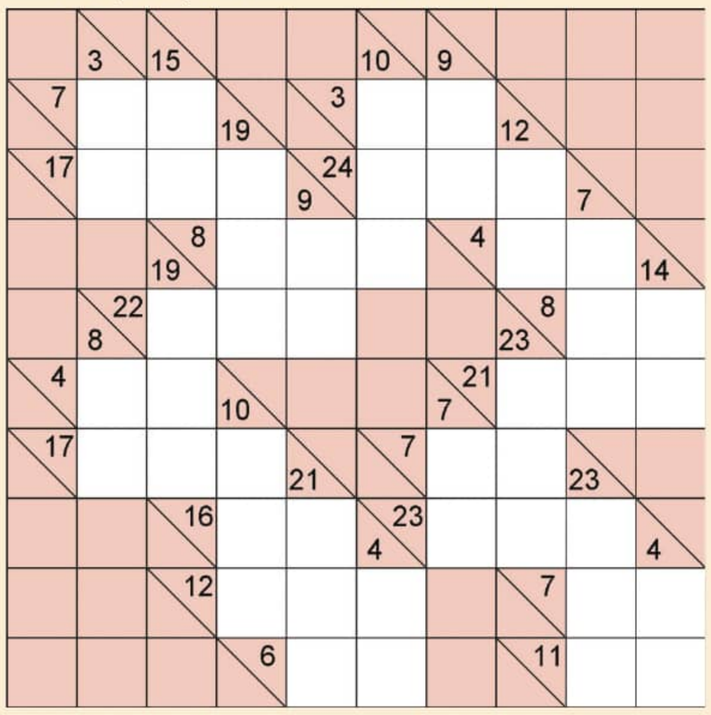
√((4^49) + (4^49) + (4^49) + (4^49)) = ?

Kakuro

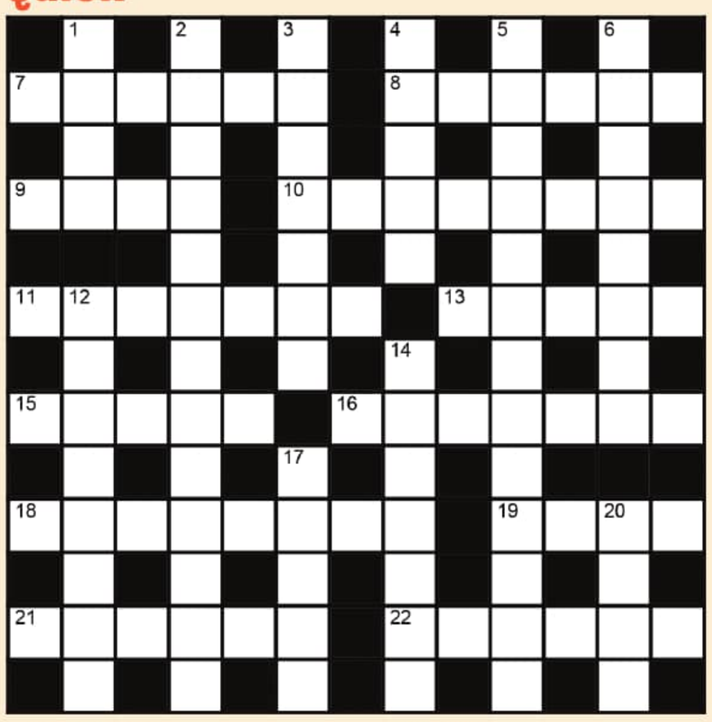
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Gained by labour (6)
8 Greek city (6)
9 Local headgear ? (4)
10 Saves or retains (8)
11 Vending (7)
13 Set amount of work (5)
15 Shoots a movie (5)
16 Senior clergyman (7)
18 Stringed musical instrument (8)
19 Catch sight of (4)
21 Italy's football league (5,1)
22 City in Uttar Pradesh (6)

DOWN

1 Roman censor (4)
2 Disappointing, especially in movies (13)
3 Loving or revering greatly (7)
4 Diagram a sentence (5)
5 Hot-headed (5-8)
6 World wide web (8)
12 Gourmets or gastronomes (8)
14 Ancient Roman or Greek galleys (7)
17 ___ Hills: Bangalore's highest point (5)
20 Stone-fruit (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS U

FQN NYQ SQZDNO XU PYZN OXD FXLQ SQ PYZN OXD BX.

Linemaro

You look like my future mother-inlaw's only daughter

Mindchow

A writer needs three things, experience, observation, and imagination, any two of which, at times any one of which, can supply the lack of the others

Joke of the day

When someone you greatly admire and respect appears to be thinking deep thoughts, they are probably thinking about lunch

Loop

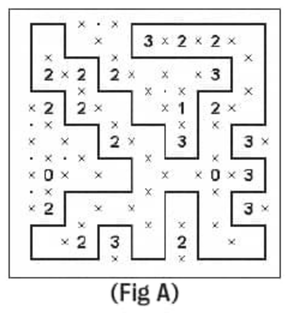
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

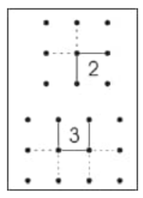
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

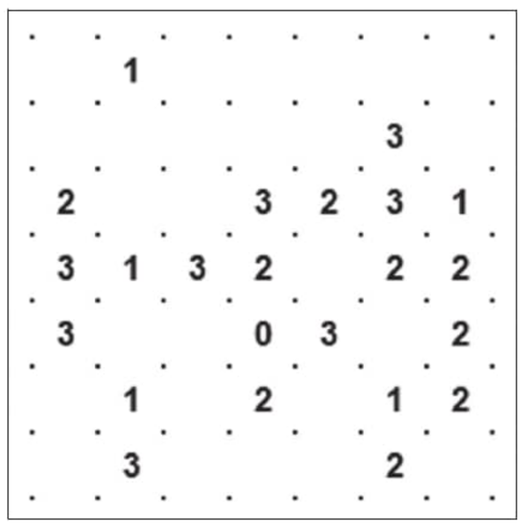
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



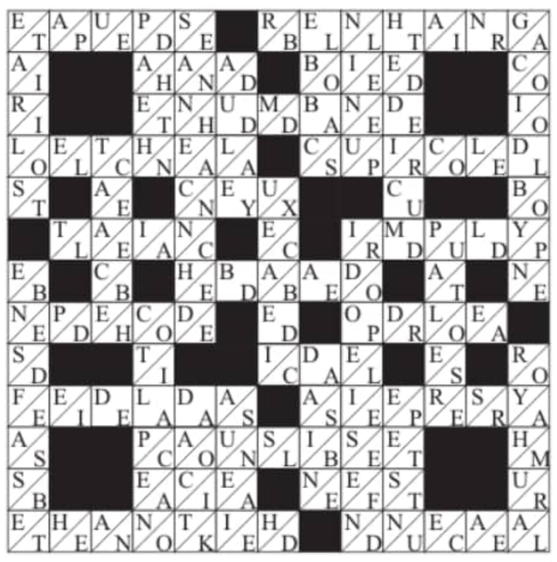
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



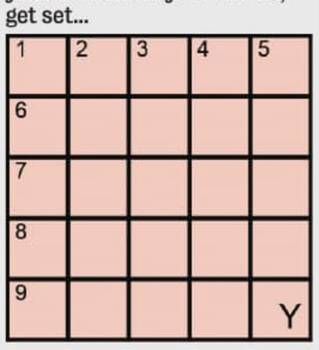
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

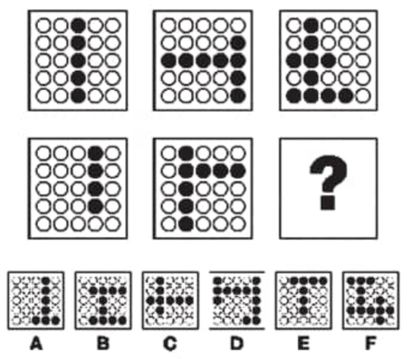
1 Fused; 6 An ape;
7 L sort; 8 Staid;
9 Layed

DOWN

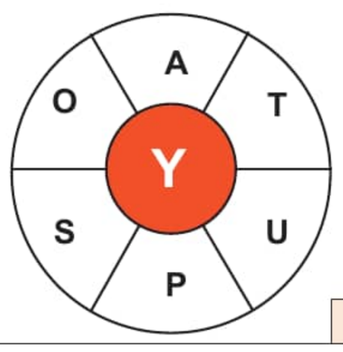
1 Daraf; 2 Ed Poe;
3 Unlit; 4 Dealt;
5 Says S

Mensapuzzle

What is missing in the last grid?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; **07** Good; **09** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5	7			6		9	
9			2					
		3	9				2	5
						5	8	
8	4			3			1	2
	3	6						
3	9				2	4		
					4			8
	6		8			7	5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

3 3 7 9

Medium = 3

2 5 6 6

Hard = 6

3 5 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

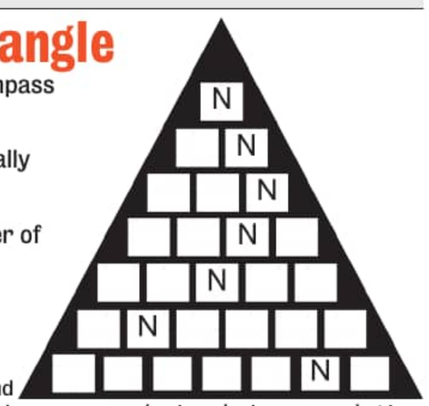
Differences: 1. Tie is missing. 2. Hair is different. 3. Roof is smaller. 4. Mirror is wider. 5. Fence is wider. 6. Nose is bigger.

Riddler

Al and Ben are standing back to back next to a railroad track. When the front of a train passes them, Al starts to walk in the opposite direction of the train, while Ben starts to walk in the same direction as the train. Each stops walking when the back of the train passes him. If the two of them walk at the same speed, and Al walks exactly 30 feet, and Ben walks exactly 45 feet, how long is the train?

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Not out
3 Alcoholic drink
4 Vocalise melodically
5 Burn
6 Eat
7 Getting the better of

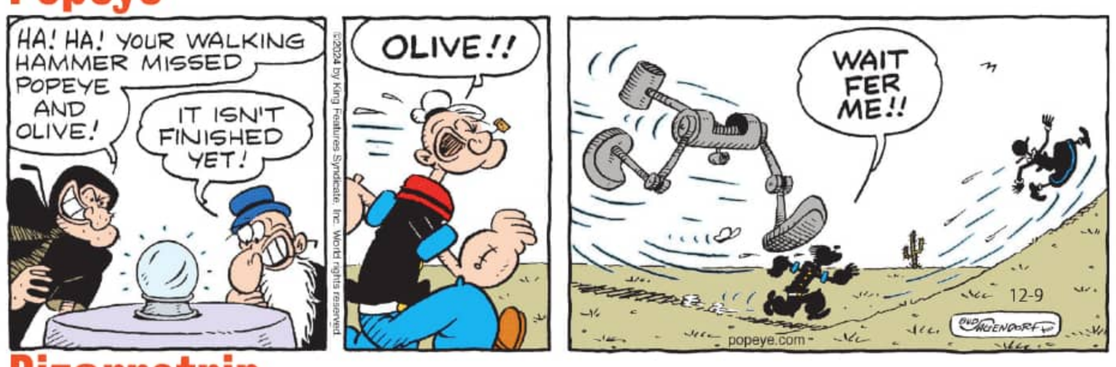


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


HA! HA! YOUR WALKING HAMMER MISSED POPEYE AND OLIVE!
IT ISN'T FINISHED YET!
OLIVE!!
WAIT FER ME!!
12-9
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

The old plagues felt a little harsh, so I created pickleball.
Wayno & Piraro 5-30-25
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features ©2025 Bizarro Studios

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

READ 'EM AND WEEP, BOYS!
PSST, DEAN! YOU GOTTA STOP BRINGING CHARLOTTE TO POKER NIGHT. SHE'S TOO GOOD, AND I'M BROKE!
WE'RE NOT EVEN PLAYING WITH REAL MONEY! JUST CHIPPY CHIPS!
WELL, I'M CHIPPY CHIP BROKE!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

ROGER SAID I SEEMED SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING TO BE A CARTOONIST...
PIZZA
A LOT OF PEOPLE JUST WANT TO COME HERE TO SEE MY STUDIO...
I REALLY WANT TO SEE HIS STUDIO!
BUT AFTER HE SAID THAT, THERE WAS NO WAY ON EARTH I WAS GOING TO ASK TO SEE HIS STUDIO!
5-30
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Blessed with elders' support, you'll feel confident and energized. Work efficiency increases, allowing smooth execution of new tasks. This is a favorable day for innovation and even small business investments, which may yield good gains. Rivals will no longer pose a threat. Acts of generosity will enhance social prestige. At home, you may feel inspired to add a creative touch, uplifting the atmosphere.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Responsibilities blend with joy today. Children's needs may keep you busy, possibly involving short academic trips. Couples may receive delightful news about pregnancy or childbirth. Romance looks fulfilling, bringing harmony to relationships. Socially, you may plan a family outing. Job professionals can consider higher education or skill development to boost career growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Impatience and lack of focus may affect progress today. Avoid hasty decisions, especially regarding property or fixed assets—delaying is wiser. Keep a close watch on your parents' health. Grounding activities and calmness will help restore inner balance and realign you with long-term goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Energy and courage help you complete projects ahead of time. You may invest in essential home or office items. Misunderstandings with siblings may resolve, strengthening family ties. Short work-related trips are possible and could prove useful for expanding your professional network.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Financial and personal growth looks positive today. You'll manage expenses well and boost savings. Home improvements or buying decorative items may keep you engaged. Love relationships deepen; couples may discuss marriage, while singles could meet someone special. Children will excel in their pursuits, filling you with pride.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Balance and positivity return today. You'll feel energetic and confident, paving the way for professional success. Family businesses may expand, and chronic health conditions could show improvement. Overseas travel plans may emerge, opening new doors for growth.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

A restless mood or dullness may affect your day. Health requires attention—avoid overexertion, risky driving, or adventure trips. Stay alert to hidden rivals or negative people. Avoid arguments and focus on peace. Meditation or light exercise will help restore calm.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Professional life looks promising, with work keeping you engaged and motivated. However, a packed schedule may cause fatigue and delays in attending family events. Your spouse will offer strong support, maintaining harmony. Love birds may take steps toward commitment. Job seekers could receive positive news, possibly through contacts.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

The Moon's blessings bring happiness and satisfaction. You'll remain busy with work and expanding your network. Elders' guidance may help you implement successful plans. Social visits or family celebrations will add joy to your day.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Emotional sensitivity and mood swings may arise. Health demands attention; avoid rash driving and risky actions. Hidden opponents may create stress at work. Patience will be key in relationships—avoid trivial arguments. Focus on building trust with your partner.

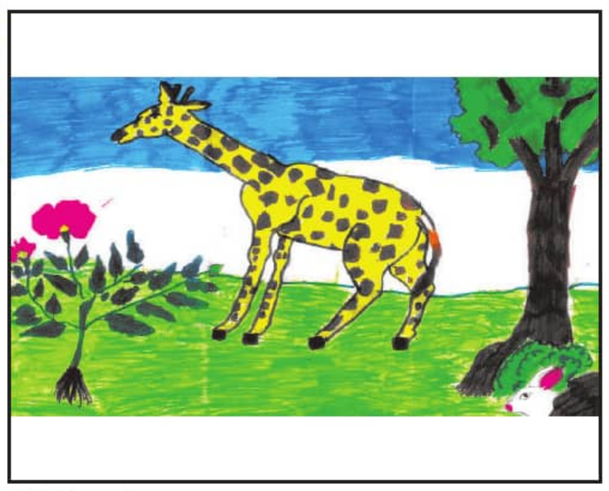
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

A day of self-reflection and growth. You may analyze past mistakes, boosting confidence and decision-making clarity. Disputes in partnerships may resolve, restoring trust. Warmth in relationships with your spouse grows stronger. Students will benefit from quick, wise career decisions. Singles might meet someone special.

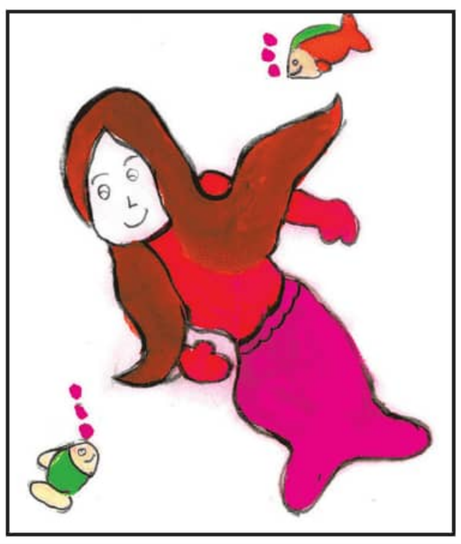
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

The Moon blesses you with positivity and smooth progress. Stalled projects will move forward. Domestic harmony and deeper bonds with your spouse bring joy. Professional success is likely, with possible promotions. Job seekers may find good opportunities. Singles and love birds may take steps toward commitment or marriage.

KIDZONE



Rohith, Bengaluru



Swetha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(4^1 * 4^49)^1/2 =
(4^50)^1/2 =
4^(50/2) = 4^25

BULL'S EYE

AUTOPSY, pasty, patsy, posy, soapy, soupy, spay, stay, typo

FAST FIVE

D	E	L	A	Y
A	D	I	T	S
R	O	T	L	S
A	P	N	E	A
F	E	U	D	S

RIDDLER

The train is 180 feet long.

STRIKE OUT

T	A	U	P	E	R	E	N	T	I	N	G
A	A	N	D	B	E	E		D	U	C	A	L
S		A	C	E	N	E	T				U	
A		C	O	N	S	I	S	T			H	
F	I	E	L	D	S		S	I	E	R	R	A
D			I			C	A	L		E		R
E	P	H	O	D		E		O	R	L	E	
B		C		E	B	E	D		A		E	
L	A	I	C		E		I	M	P	L	Y	
S		E		N	Y	X		U			B	
L	E	T	H	A	L		S	P	I	C	E	D
I		T	H	U	M	B	E	D			O	
A	A	N	D		B	E	E				O	
T	A	U	P	E	R	E	N	T	I	N	G	

QUICK

S		C		R		E		D		M
S	E	R	I	E	A		M	E	E	R	U	T
R		T		K		E		R		L
D	U	L	C	I	M	E	R		E	S	P	Y
C		A		O		I		P				
F	I	L	M	S		P	R	I	M	A	T	E
P		I		G		T		E		E		
S	E	L	L	I	N	G		S	T	I	N	T
C		I		E		T		R				
T	O	P	I		R	E	S	E	R	V	E	S
T		T		O		R		O		T		
E	A	R	N	E	D		A	T	H	E	N	S
A		A		P		S		I		M		

MENSA PUZZLE

B. In each row, the left hand grid contains one line of black dots, the central one contains 2 lines and the right hand one contains 3 lines.

QUOTE UNCODE

Let the beauty of what you love be what you do.

SUDOKU

2	5	7	3	8	6	1	9	4
9	8	4	2	5	1	3	7	6
6	1	3	9	4	7	8	2	5
7	2	1	4	6	9	5	8	3
5	3	6	8	1	2	9	4	7
8	4	9	7	3	5	6	1	2
3	9	8	5	7	2	4	6	1
1	7	5	6	9	4	2	3	8
4	6	2	8	1	3	7	5	9

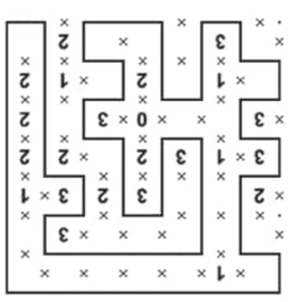
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, In, Gin, Sing, Singe, Ingest, Bestling.

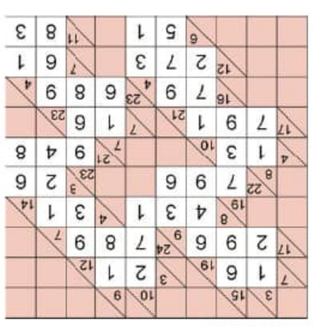
GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 3 + 7 − 9 = 4
Medium
5 − 6 − 2 + 6 = 3
Hard
5 − 8 + 6 + 3 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Goodbye Guruji in Paris
Assamese film 'Goodbye Guruji' selected for Festival Gange Sur Seine in Paris

Hard work & gratitude

Karisma describes her career trajectory from a rough start to days of success

Karisma Kapoor, one of the most iconic stars of the 90s, reflected on her journey from being a teenager entering the film industry to becoming a beloved household name. Speaking at the 2024 Jagran Film Festival, she shared heartfelt memories of her early struggles, the criticism she endured, and the determination that kept her moving forward. Karisma shared that gratitude is the most important emotion for her, saying she feels deeply thankful for everything in her journey. She expressed how much she values the love and support she continues to receive, even from the younger generation.

Starting young

Looking back on her early years, the actress recalled how, in the 90s, she often juggled 4–5 shifts in a single day. It was a very different time, and her journey unfolded step by step. She had stepped into films at just 16–17, straight out of school, with barely two months of college before facing the camera. Coming from a sheltered background, the transition was far from easy.

Harsh comments about looks

Talking about the criticism she faced for her looks, she remembered how people would often say she resembled Randhir Kapoor without a mustache, or remark that she was too fair, had light-coloured eyes, or appeared a bit 'emo.' Hearing such comments at just 16–17 years old wasn't easy, but she stayed focused on her path as her elders had advised her on the need for hard work. **—ETimes**

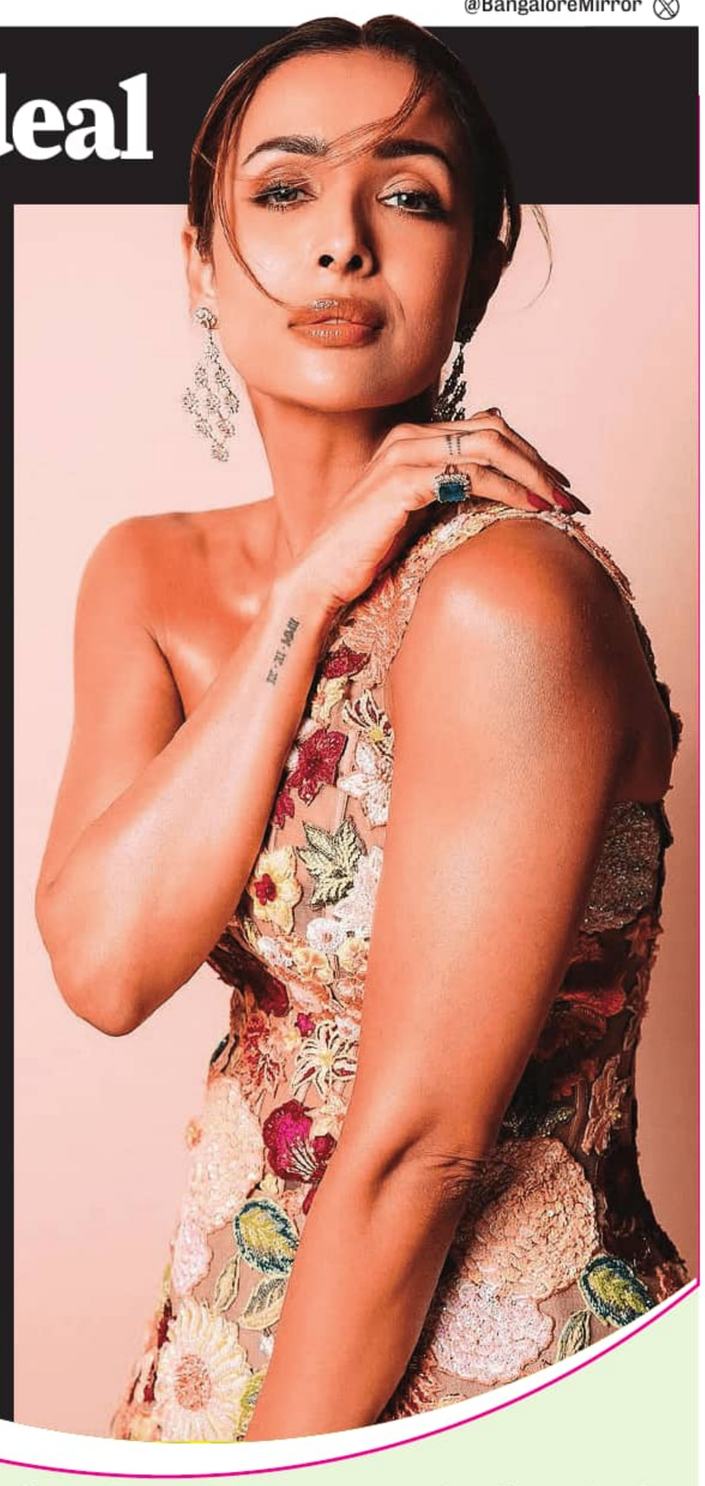
Good deal

Malaika Arora has completed a super profitable real estate deal, selling her lavish Mumbai apartment. Reportedly, the deal was signed for Rs 5.3 crore. The actress has sold the property located in Mumbai's Andheri West area. Let's learn in detail about this lucrative deal.

According to News 18, the property registration records that are available on the website of the Inspector General of Registration show that the sale was finalized in August 2025. With that, Malaika generated a profit of approximately Rs 2.04 crore from her initial purchase price in March 2018.

As per the report, the deal also involved a huge stamp duty of Rs 31.08 lakh and a registration charge of Rs 30,000. According to the report, the lavish flat has a carpet area of 1,369 sq. ft. and a built-up area of 1,643 sq. ft. Along with that, it also has a dedicated car parking space.

Reportedly, the Bollywood diva initially purchased the property for Rs 3.26 crore just over seven years ago. The recent sale has resulted in a remarkable 62 percent appreciation in its value. —ETimes



Mirror of good, bad and ugly in society

Elumale
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Punit Rangaswamy
- **ACTORS** Raanna, Priyanka Achar, Jagapathi Babu, Kishore Kumar, TS Nagabharana, Sardar Satya
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 133 minutes

Punit Rangaswamy, a lyricist, makes debut as director in Sandalwood with this movie. Punit has kept the screenplay crisp and followed the script faithfully without indulging in glorification of actors. Elumale means seven hills. This movie has seven key characters and all the actors, who play those characters, have delivered a fantastic performance and the credit goes to debutant director Punit Rangaswamy.

It is claimed the movie is based on real incidents that took place on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. The movie has all elements including romance.

The movie begins with Harisha (Raanna), a cab driver, taking a family on a trip to Ooty on October 18, 2004. Harisha, while driving the cab, is seen trying to contact someone over the phone but is unable to because of poor network. The scene is shifted to Dharmapuri Forest Area where Tamil Nadu Special Task Force Officer Vinay Kumar (Jagapathi Babu) is seen supervising the training of commandos. Later, the scene is shifted to Rasipuram in Salem district where marriage arrangements are in progress. The bride is Revathi (Priyanka Achar), the sister of Shanmugam. It is said Revathi fell in love with Harisha while pursuing higher education at Maharani College in Mysuru. Harisha asks Revathi to come to Mysuru but she misses the bus and is compelled to board a bus proceeding towards MM Hills. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Harisha and Revathi.

All the actors have excelled in their roles. Kishore Kumar, who plays Venkatesh Naik, a police inspector known for cruelty, third degree treatment, manipulation, and fake encounters, can get you riled up. Kishore Kumar, walks away with all honours for his sterling performance. Raanna is good in action, romance and emotional scenes. He is at his best as a hapless and affectionate lover. His performance in a scene where he pleads with the police to allow him to go to MM Hills will melt your heart. Veteran director-cum-actor TS Nagabharana, as a compassionate writer, has acted well. Jagapathi Babu and Sardar Sathya provide good support.

Cinematographer Advaitha Gurumurthy has done a fantastic job. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Glamour for daughter, comedy for dad

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday gave fans a glimpse of her glam look in a new video but with a dollop of humour as her actor-father Chunky Panday quipped her glam session looked like a "comedy show."

Ananya took to Instagram, where she shared a video of her dressing up. In the clip, the actress could be heard asking her father about his thoughts on her hair and Chunky replied "it's like a comedy show."

The video also featured the actress all dolled up and wearing a dress made out of pearls as she posed for a photo-shoot in the luxe ensemble.

She captioned the post: "Not my dad saying my glam is looking like a comedy show… Is anyone into pearl shaking ASMR .. this video is for you. It's the chaos for me obsessed w the the dress (sic)."

Ananya shared the same video on her stories section and captioned it as "Chaaaaaotic."

On the acting front, Ananya will be seen in "Chand Mera Dil" with Lakshya Lalwani and 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri' alongside Kartik Aaryan.

The actress had earlier spoke to IANS about the films and said that she hopes that the audiences connect with her through the film in their own way.

"Yes, I'm super excited! Both films let me explore very different sides of myself, and I can't wait for audiences to see them and hopefully connect with them in their own way," Ananya told IANS, when asked about the two films.

"Chand Mera Dil", which was announced last year. **—ANI**